

**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL**  
**KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

BILL 46 (2025)

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**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE**

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RELATING TO THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. Purpose and findings. The purpose of this ordinance is to require the Honolulu Police Department ("HPD") to release certain public information to the media and to the public.

Section 6-1604 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended, sets forth the powers, duties, and functions of the Chief of Police, which include promulgating rules and regulations necessary for the organization and internal administration of the HPD.

The media and public's timely access to emergency-related information is essential to keeping the community safe from dangerous situations such as active shooters, armed and dangerous individuals, and violent crimes. In releasing such information, however, the HPD must consider the need to protect certain information due to confidentiality, privacy laws, ongoing police investigations, or security breach threats.

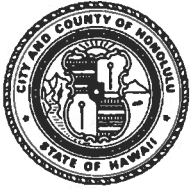
The City Council finds that the release of public information by government agencies in a consistent, impartial, accurate, and timely manner is critical to maintaining the public's trust in government operations. The HPD's provision of timely and accurate information assists in the prevention of misinformation spreading within the community, which can cause panic and public distrust.

SECTION 2. Chapter 2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("The Mayor and Executive Agencies—Additional Powers, Duties, and Functions"), is amended by adding a new article to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of Ordinances and to read as follows:

**"ARTICLE \_\_: HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA AND PUBLIC ACCESS  
TO INFORMATION**

**§ 2-\_\_ .1 Release of information—Radio access—Reports.**

- (a) *Definition.* For the purposes of this section, the following definition applies unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.



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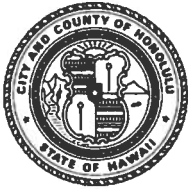
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***Local media outlet.*** A professional news organization that operates within the city and:

- (1) Holds a valid broadcast license issued by the Federal Communications Commission; or
- (2) Regularly disseminates news to the public and meets one or more of the following:
  - (A) Listed as a recognized legal or public notice publication pursuant to HRS § 1-28.5; or
  - (B) Has a verifiable track record of professional journalism, including the employment of full-time editorial staff, adherence to a publicly-posted code of journalistic ethics, and a history of continuous publication or broadcasting for at least 10 years.
- (b) The chief of police shall adopt and implement a strategic plan and internal procedures for the timely release of public information to the media and the public.
- (c) The chief of police shall enter into a written agreement with local media outlets for the purpose of providing access to the Honolulu police department's dispatch radio communications.
- (d) The chief of police shall provide an annual report to the council on Honolulu police department media relations and personnel training therefor. The annual report must be submitted to the council 12 months after the effective date of this ordinance and every year thereafter."

SECTION 3. The Chief of Police shall submit a progress report and draft of the media and public access strategic plan to the council no later than six months after the effective date of this ordinance.

SECTION 4. The Revisor of Ordinances shall, pursuant to the Revisor's authority under Section 1-16.3(b)(1), Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, replace the phrase "the effective date of this ordinance" or similar phrase used in the codified language of this ordinance with the actual date on which the ordinance takes effect. The Revisor of Ordinances shall, pursuant to the Revisor's authority under SECTION 2



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of Ordinance 23-7, update the Reporting Requirements Table to include the reporting requirements enacted by SECTION 2 of this ordinance.

SECTION 5. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Tony Watson*

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**MAY 28 2025**

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor  
City and County of Honolulu

**Report Title:**

Honolulu Police Department ("HPD"); Chief of Police; Strategic Plan; Media; Dispatch Radio Communications; Public Information; Report

**Description:**

Requires the Chief of Police to develop and implement a strategic plan and internal procedures for the release of certain information to the media and public and provide local media outlets with access to HPD dispatch radio communications. Requires the Chief of Police to submit reports to the Council.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*